

Application No. 10/811,168
Filed: March 26, 2004
TC Art Unit: 3677
Confirmation No.: 1995

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A safety buckle, comprising:
 - a socket having a cavity with a first surface;
 - a first catch in the cavity and adjoining the first surface
 - and directed ~~pretruding~~ away from the first surface;
 - a plug with a central arm for insertion into the socket;
 - a first latch on the central arm sized and positioned to cooperate with the catch when the plug is inserted into the socket to engage the plug and socket;
 - a disengagement device on the socket ~~or plug~~ cooperating with the central arm or the catch to disengage the latch and the catch upon actuation of the device; and
 - a second latch or catch on an opposing side of the cavity or central arm, respectively, and sized and positioned with a symmetry to the first latch or first catch, respectively, for providing an alternate engagement with the corresponding first catch or first latch, such that the socket and plug may be engaged independent of a relative orientation of the socket and plug.
2. (Canceled)

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3. (Previously Presented) The buckle according to claim 1,
wherein the central arm includes the second latch for cooperating
with the first catch of the socket.

4 - 23. (Canceled)